



Minidoka NHS News

August/September 2016

Breaking News...

Minidoka Orientation Film Contract Awarded

North Shore Productions of Portland, Oregon submitted the winning proposal. They have produced a number of films for the National Park Service, including Kenai Fjords, Death Valley, Whitman Missions, and Gates of the Arctic. In addition, they have done work for the Canadian Museum of Human Rights and the Glenbow Museum. Many of their films have dealt with discrimination, oppression, segregation, and civil rights.

Two complementary films will be produced, one for Minidoka National Historic Site and one for the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, a unit of Minidoka NHS.

Idaho State Historical Society

Heidi Wiesner, Education Specialist, is working with the park to create Minidoka Traveling Trunks for both high school and middle school teachers and students. Contents of the trunks will include books, artifacts, newspaper articles, and photos. The historic site is providing materials for the trunks; the Historical Society will distribute the trunks to local teachers in addition to supplying some materials.

National History Day 2017

History is made by risk-takers. The 2017 National History Day theme, Taking a Stand in History, highlights those who have taken risks and taken a stand, whether in a political, social, religious, military, economic, artistic, or intellectual sphere. For more information:

www.nhd.org/themebook.

2016 Symposium: October 15 & 16

Change is coming to the 2016 Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium. The first ten symposiums were June events, usually held the third Thursday and Friday of June. This year's symposium will be held in the fall on a Saturday and Sunday. Boise State University will be the venue for the October 15 & 16 Symposium whose theme reflects a topic of growing concern in the country: "Mass Incarceration in the Land of the Free."

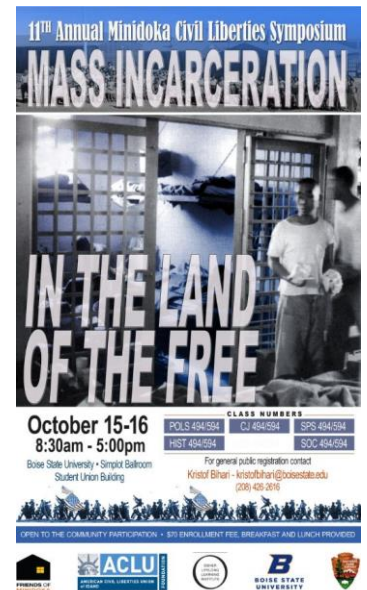
After greetings by the symposium's partners, Tom Ikeda will set the context for the symposium within the Japanese American incarceration experience throughout the country and in Minidoka.

Mass incarceration in this country is a complex issue and has generated increasing concern in recent years. The symposium will address the topic from multiple viewpoints: private prisons; reentry into the community after prison; racism and incarceration; war on drugs; and effects on individuals and communities.

Min Yasui, who was incarcerated for violating the curfew laws after Pearl Harbor would be 100 years old in October. His daughter Holly Yasui will discuss his legacy and the recent designation of Min Yasui day in



A panel discussion at the 2015 Symposium



Oregon. Karen Korematsu will discuss the legacy of her father, Fred Korematsu, who refused to obey the removal orders

Art is coming to this year's symposium. The Boise Art Museum and the Symposium are co-hosting a reception Saturday evening at 7:00 pm to showcase the Museum's latest exhibit: Minidoka: Artist As Witness. This exciting exhibit features the works of Takuichi Fujii, Kenjiro Nomura, Roger Shimomura, Teresa Tamura, and Wendy Maruyama.

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Flagpole by Tackuichi Fujii

Minidoka Irrigator Headlines August/September 1944

Each month this column will feature headlines from the *Minidoka Irrigator* during the same months in 1944.

August 5: **Pvt. Mary Yamaoka First Hunt WAC, Training in Iowa.**

Pvt. Yamaoka, who worked as a nurse's aid at the camp hospital, has chosen a medical assignment after training.

August 12: **Civic Memorial Services Held**

Nine soldiers who died in battle were honored at a community-wide event yesterday at the amphitheater.

August 19: **Draft-Depleted All-Stars Lose Again; Eden Triumphs**

Eden has the distinction of being the only Magic Valley team to beat the local Hunt team twice.

August 26: **Hospital Benefit Fund Campaign Nets \$357.62**

Block 36 leads with donations of \$17.40 as residents give generously to help out the hospital situation.

September 2: **Labor Shortage Hits Camp: 400 Positions Left Open**

Positions are most critically needed in the Agricultural, Engineering, Vocational Training, Warehouse, and Education Divisions.

September 16: **Canadian Evacuees in Six Camps**

23,000 Japanese in Canada were affected by evacuation and have now been imprisoned in six camps

September 16: **Stretching 1,000 Acre Farm Supplies All Food For Project**

Starting with a farm of little over 230 acres in 1943, the local farm now stretches out covering an impressive 1,000 acres.

September 23: **CA Sponsors Weekend Art, Vegetable, Flower Exhibits**

The public is cordially invited to see the displays set up in four recreational halls.

September 30: **Hole-In-One Contest won by S.Iwata**

The contest drew a total of 67 aspirants and of this number 34 individuals qualified. A total of 1,149 shots were taken in the qualifying round.

Rehabilitation of the Herrmann House Continues

The contractors working on the Herrmann House rehabilitation have made considerable progress since June. Much of the early work has focused on the exterior of the house with the original siding being removed, deteriorated materials replaced, and windows replaced.

Interior work has included the removal of appliances and asbestos, electrical upgrades, and prep work for the installation of new doors and windows.

The two bedrooms will be converted into office spaces while the living room will function as a visitor contact



Kitchen will retain its historic appearance after renovation.

station with a small exhibit and bookstore area.

The park is hopeful that the building will open to the public on or near February 19, 2017 to coincide with the Day of Remembrance.



Exterior after removal of siding



Construction in 1952

Hunt Camp Photo Album



High school girls had the opportunity to work part time in the beauty shop, which was operated by the Minidoka Consumers Cooperative. If you recognize anyone in the photo, please let us know.

NARA Photo

Minidoka Profile: Kimi Tambara

Among the editors of the *Minidoka Irrigator* was the self-titled “terrible triumvirate” of Cherry Tanka, Mitsu Yasuda, and Kimi Tambara. Female editorship was rare among the WRA newspapers.

Born on April 19, 1919, Kimi Tambara was 23 years old when her family was incarcerated at Minidoka. A month after arriving in camp she began work as a reporter for the *Irrigator*. Kimi brought limited journalistic experience to the paper having taken only a journalism class at Albany College in 1937. By July 3, 1943, she had become one of the main editors of the paper with a pay of \$19 per month which placed her on the highest pay grade available in camp.

Throughout her tenure as primary editor, Tambara would face challenges understanding and operating within

the WRA policies. Although committed to the idea of an incarcerated-run camp newspaper, officials prohibited the publishing of articles critical or negative toward the WRA or the US government. Kimi worked under the supervision of three different Reports Officers who served as official censors of the paper. The ambiguity over what things were prohibited and what the Reports Officer deemed unacceptable made her job as editor very difficult.



Kimi Tambara is in the front row, second from right

In the last issue of the *Irrigator* published on July 28, 1945, Tambara wrote, “Let us...bid a fond farewell to that gray barrack city of Hunt and pray that never again will another group be made to open its gates again.” The Tambara family left Minidoka on September 17, 1945.

Kimi would return to Portland and continue her journalistic career by helping to reestablish the *Oshu Nippo*, a Japanese language newspaper which had been shut down during the war. She was a member of the JACL and was part of the early wave of Japanese American activism that laid the groundwork for the redress movement.

For more information about Kimi, contact the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center at <http://www.oregonnikkei.org>.

The Minidoka NHS Newsletter is in its second year of monthly newsletters designed to update our partners and friends on recent events at the historic site and elsewhere.

If you have information you would like to share or topics you would like to see discussed in the coming year, please email Carol Ash at carol_ash@nps.gov.

Upcoming Articles:

- Special Ball Field Edition
- Herrmann House Update
- Exhibit Planning Update
- Book Corner
- Recent Museum Donations

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Book Corner: *Enduring Conviction: Fred Korematsu and His Quest for Justice*

Author: Lorraine K. Bannai

Ms. Bannai served on the 1983 legal team that represented Fred Korematsu in reopening his case, one of the most infamous cases in United States legal history. She is also a third-generation Japanese American – a Sansei. Her family was incarcerated at Manzanar. The book is not only the story about Fred Korematsu, it is the story of her family and all Japanese Nikkei incarcerated during WW II.

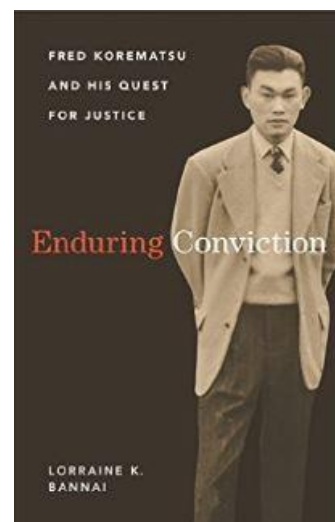
In 1942, Fred was one of a handful of individuals who resisted orders to report for forced evacuation into American concentration camps. He challenged the government's orders all the way to the United States Supreme Court. In his case, *Korematsu v. United States*, the 1944 court held that the orders did not violate the U.S. Constitution.

In her preface, Ms. Bannai states, “This book seeks to set Fred's case within the context of a broader legal history in which the American legal system has

too often responded to public pressure in ways that harm minority communities.”

The book draws on a wide range of sources including interviews with family members, friends, and members of his legal team.

The book is published by the University of Washington Press.



Wanted: Childhood Artwork and Writings

Do you have any artwork or writings from childhood done in Minidoka?

Judy Miller is a retired teacher who has volunteered at Manzanar National Historic Site and is working with one of the rangers, Mark Hatchmann, to create a book that would have a chapter for each of the incarceration sites and Crystal City. The plan at this point is to include artwork and writings from the young people in the camps. She also wants to include a short biography of the artist or writer.

They have access to the records at Manzanar and Densho, but would also like to search for 'new' pieces. If you have material you would like included use please contact Judy at jmiller3881ben@yahoo.com or call her at 509-981-8475.

Judy will be at Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge until November 1st and will then go to Manzanar for three months. The materials will be copied and returned to you. Judy and Mark thank you for your consideration of this request.

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Boise Art Museum received a partial National Endowment of the Arts grant to mount this exhibit.

Students can register for Boise State University credit in several disciplines. The public is invited to attend the symposium for a \$70 registration fee. For more information regarding student and public registration, contact Kristof Bihari at 208-426-2616 or kristofbihari@boisestate.edu.

For more information, contact Carol Ash: carol_ash@nps.gov or Mia Russell: miaaruss@gmail.com.

JACS Grant Program

The National Park Service (NPS) is now accepting applications for \$3 million in grants to preserve and interpret U.S. confinement sites and other locations where more than 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were imprisoned during World War II. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, November 10.

In the announcement, NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis stated, "These grants support projects that are vivid

reminders of the continuing need to guard the constitutional rights of all Americans against injustice, prejudice, and fear."

Friends of Minidoka has received several grants that have contributed to the development of the park: Honor Roll reconstruction in 2011; Guard Tower reconstruction in 2014; and Intergenerational Legacy Exhibit planning in 2016. Local partner, Jerome County Historical Society, received a grant to preserve and catalogue Minidoka artifacts in its collection.



2014 JACS Grant Project

Museum Donation; Mess Hall Stoneware

Future plans at Minidoka National Historic Site include the rehabilitation of the Mess Hall in Block 22. Steps have already been taken to tell the story of the impact of the dining halls on the life of the incarcerated. Eight reproduction picnic tables span one end of the Mess Hall. Plans include setting one table with dishware as if the lunch hour was ready to begin.



Christmas dinner 1942

A recent donation by Robert Trautwein of Nebraska will enable the park to have a selection of dishware for the museum collection as well as provide pieces to set the table. The 70+ pieces include platters, dinner plates, mugs, soup bowls, gravy boat, and saucers.



Recent museum donation

This newsletter is published monthly for our friends and partners across America.

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The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial on Bainbridge Island is a unit of Minidoka NHS. It is managed by Klondike Gold Rush NHP.

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